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TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HA'RE JOHN'S
PARADISE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Ha're John's Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Ha're John's Paradise. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Ha're John's Group Home is a ten-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Ha're John's Group Home was providing services for nine Los Angeles County DCFS children. Ha're John's Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, The Agency was providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address various deficient areas. Specifically, Ha're John's need to make numerous repairs to its facility; provide cognitive stimulation for all children; maintain current court authorizations for all children prescribed psychotropic medication, and ensure they are routinely seen by the psychiatrist; and encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children Services Group Home Ombudsman within 20 business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Hazel Culpepper, Executive Director, Ha're John's Paradise
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
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**Ha're John's Paradise Group Home
3939 Slauson Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90043
Phone: (323) 295-2393
License: 191871747
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

The Ha're John's Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, adequately landscaped, and secure.

The interior of the Group Home needs improvement. Specifically, in all four bathrooms, there are no toilet paper holders, and in two of the bathrooms the toilet paper is on the floor. In the large front bathroom, there is rust and mildew on the tile in the shower; and in one of the bathrooms, the curtains are not properly hung and/or the rod is broken.

The kitchen is not clean, and the stove and oven are extremely dirty, with grease stains. One of the cabinet doors is broken, the back of the dining table and bench has a large broken piece of wood, and the china cabinet has a missing piece of glass. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home does not provide an overall home-like environment.

The children's bedrooms are in need of improvement. Specifically, there is writing on the headboards and furniture in two of the bedrooms, and window screens are not properly attached to the windows. In one of the bedrooms, the ceiling fixture has a missing cover, and there are no face towels available for the children.

The rooms are adequately clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate lighting, and storage space. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Ha're John's management:

- a. Provide toilet paper holders in all four bathrooms.
- b. Remove all rust and mildew from the shower in the front bathroom.
- c. Repair the broken curtain rod in the bathroom.
- d. Maintain a clean kitchen at all times.
- e. Clean the stove and oven.
- f. Repair the broken bottom cabinet door.
- g. Repair/Replace the broken dining table bench.
- h. Replace the missing glass on the china cabinet door.
- i. Remove all writing from the bedroom furniture.
- j. Replace the ceiling light cover.
- k. Properly attach all window screens to the windows.
- l. Provide children with face towels.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children were assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team developed and implemented the Needs and Services Plan (NSP) with input from the child. The NSP is current, comprehensive, and includes long and short-term goals. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSP.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. One child is provided with educational support and resources to meet his educational needs; however, the other child only attends school on Saturdays and is not receiving daily cognitive stimulation from the Group Home. Both children are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

2. Ha're John's management:

- a. Provide all children with daily cognitive stimulation.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given the opportunity to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for two case files

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

One child has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. The other child did not have a current court authorization. Documentation confirms that one of the children is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. The other child had not been routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

3. Ha're John's management:

- a. Maintain current court authorizations for all children prescribed psychotropic medication.**
- b. Ensure all children receiving psychotropic medication are routinely seen by the psychiatrist.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children are given the opportunity to receive or reject voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the children. The Group Home supplies children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and children are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

4. Ha're John's management:

- a. Encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**